



11th August 2021

Coronavirus beyond Level Zero

As you will no doubt be aware the Scottish Government went beyond what was termed level zero in Scotland on 9th August and removed most restrictions. However, they also stressed that face coverings should continue to be worn. If you intend to start up meetings in September it is worth bearing the following points in mind to have a safe meeting.

1. It will continue to be the law, subject to existing exemptions, that face coverings must be worn in all the same indoor settings as is the case now. This may be a requirement for some months to come
2. Even though the law will not stipulate physical distancing the Government continue to advise the public that - especially indoors - keeping a safe distance from people in other households and avoiding crowded places will minimise risk

3. Meet outdoors as much as possible – especially for as long as we have reasonable weather. If you are meeting indoors, open windows – the better ventilated a room is, the safer it will be.

4. Continue to wash your hands and surfaces as much as possible.

The venue may still require a Risk Assessment and I have distributed templates to all Federation Secretaries. Should you be asked to complete a Risk Assessment please contact your Federation Secretary who has both a blank template and a generic Covid Risk Assessment which can be adapted.

Further advice on Risk Assessments can be obtained by visiting the Health and Safety Executive website or clicking on the link here <https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/risk-assessment-template-and-examples.htm>

If you wish to see Government advice on moving beyond level zero this can also be found at

<https://www.gov.scot/news/scotland-to-move-beyond-level-0/>

Above all think about the venue and whilst social distancing rules have been relaxed is it still possible to social distance Is the venue large enough to allow this? Try to prevent groups of people congregating near one another. I am aware that lots of you may not have seen one another for a considerable period of time but keeping your distance helps to stop the virus from spreading.

Also provide hand sanitizer and practice good hygiene for the members who are present. If there are a lot of members present try not to leave the venue in groups but have a controlled exit.

If members are paying for their attendance or buying goods, have a controlled way of collecting the money to avoid crowding round tables etc.

Raymond Pratt

Chief Executive